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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,121	11/13/2003	Andrew Paul Burgess	52743-012004	7680
7590 10/05/2005			EXAMINER	
Margaret M. Duncan McDermott, Will & Emery 227 West Monroe Chicago, IL 60606-5096			STERLING, AMY JO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/712,121

Applicant(s)

BURGESS, ANDREW PAUL

Examiner

Amy J. Sterling

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,6-13,18,20,21 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,6-13,18,20,21 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a non-final Office Action for application number 10/712,121, filed on 11/13/03. Claims 1, 3, 6-14, 18, 20, 21 and 23 are pending. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/30/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

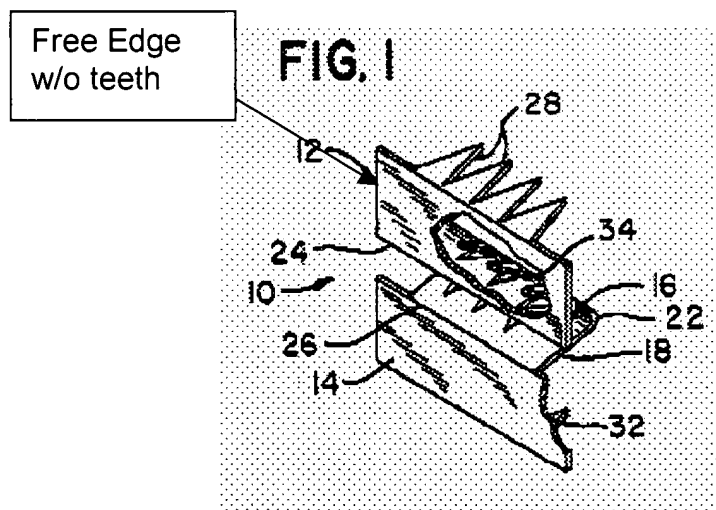
Claim 23 recites the limitation "the lower end" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11, 13, 14, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4641474 to Cannarsa.

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The patent to Cannarsa discloses a metal mounting bracket (See Col. 1 line 26 for material selection) which is affixed to a side surface of a joist (42) and a bottom surface of a plank (46), the bracket having a planar, solid separating flange portion (14), a joist-fastening portion (18) connected approximately perpendicular to the separating flange, at an angle of approximately 90° and has a hole and fastener (56) for fastening the mounting bracket to the joist, a support flange (16) connected to the joist-fastening portion (18) and extends away from the joist-fastening portion at a an approximate 35 degree angle, which also has an aligned hole therein corresponding to the hole in the joist-fastening portion (18), and a plank-fastening portion (12) having a free edge without teeth (See Drawing Below for explanation) and is connected to the support flange with a hole therein and a fastener (54) for fastening the mounting bracket to the plank. Cannarsa discloses wherein the separating flange portion (14) and the plank-fastening portion (12) are substantially co-planar and a curved spacer (apex of device) portion between the plank-securing flange portion and the support flange portion.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10, 12, 18, 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4641474 to Cannarsa as applied to claim 8 above, and in view of United States Patent No. 5775048 to Orchard.

Cannarsa discloses applicant's basic inventive concept, all the elements which are shown above with the exception that it does not teach wherein the fastener is a nail, screw or bolt and that at the connection between the joist fastening flange portion, the support flange portion there are weep holes incorporated into the lower end of the mounting bracket.

Orchard shows a bracket that which has a joist fastening flange portion (area above 11) and a support flange portion (29) which has a screw for a fastener (31) incorporated into the lower end of the mounting bracket, used for a more secure attachment of the device and a also has weep holes (27) at an connection for letting water drain from the bracket. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having

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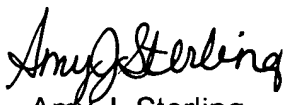
ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Orchard to add this feature to the bracket of Cannarsa in order to more firmly attach the device to the desired surface and to let water drain from the device.

Response to Arguments

The applicant has argued that the Cannarsa reference does not teach that the plank-fastening portion has a free edge that is without teeth. This is unpersuasive in that the free edge as defined above does not incorporated teeth and thereby meets the limitation as recited.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 571-272-6823. The examiner can normally be reached (M-F 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached at 571-272-6788. The fax machine number for the Technology center is 571-273-8300 (formal amendments) or 571-273-6823 (informal amendments). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at 571-272-3600.



Amy J. Sterling

9/22/05